

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8807

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03181

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, BC, MZ, TZ, UK, RH

SUBJECT: CALLAGHAN APPOINTS PERSONAL EMISSARY TO ANC

1. AT LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER
MALECALA FEBRUARY 28, AND IN PRESENCE OF SEVERAL
AFRICAN HIGH COMMISSIONERS, FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAGHAN
ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENT OF DENIS GRENNAN AS HIS PERSONAL
EMISSARY TO THE ANC HE STRESSED THAT APPOINTMENT SHOULD
BE REGARDED AS POLITICAL RATHER THAN DIPLOMATIC. BESIDES
MAINTAINING LIAISON WITH THE ANC, GRENNAN WILL BE FREE
TO TRAVEL THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA, CONSULTING WITH
VARIOUS AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS AND GENERALLY KEEPING ON TOP
OF THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. HE IS TO LEAVE FOR LUSAKA

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MARCH 3 FOR AN INITIAL STAY OF TWO WEEKS.

2. BIOGRAPHIC NOTES: GRENNAN, AGED 47, IS A TRUSTEE OF THE ARIEL FOUNDATION. HE WAS KENNETH KAUNDA'S POLITICAL ADVISER FOR SOME FIVE YEARS UNTIL HIS REPLACEMENT BY MARK CHONA. SINCE THEN HE HAS BEEN HELPING MALCOLM MACDONALD RESEARCH A BOOK ON AFRICA UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX. ON THIS PROJECT, WHICH JUST RECENTLY CONCLUDED, HE HAS MADE FREQUENT TRIPS TO AFRICA. GRENNAN ENJOYS THE CONFIDENCE OF KAUNDA AND NUMEROUS OTHER BLACK AFRICAN LEADERS. HIS INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICAN AFFAIRS DATES BACK TO HIS STUDENT DAYS WHEN HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS. HE STANDS WELL TO THE RIGHT IN THE LABOR PARTY'S POLITICAL SPECTRUM AND IS A DEDICATED PRO-MARKETEER. HE IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS THE US AND HAS OVER THE YEARS MADE THE ACQUAINTANCE OF NUMEROUS AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IN AFRICA.

3. COMMENT: IN THE CONTEXT OF CONTINUOUS PRESSURE ON THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO BE SEEN TO BE DOING SOMETHING TO HELP MAINTAIN FORWARD MOVEMENT ON RHODESIA, CALLAGHAN'S APPOINTMENT OF GRENNAN IS A SHREWD MOVE. GRENNAN IS KNOWN AND TRUSTED BY MANY OF THE LEADING AFRICANS MOST INVOLVED IN THIS ISSUE AND CALLAGHAN HOPES THAT HIS READY AVAILABILITY FOR CONSULTATION WILL BE EVIDENCE TO THE AFRICANS THAT HMG DOES INDEED CARE. AT THE SAME TIME GRENNAN WILL BE EXOECTED TO KEEP ON TOP OF DEVELOPMENTS AND REPORT TO CALLAQHAN ANY POTENTIAL OPENINGS FOR PROGRESS THAT MAY COME TO HIS ATTENTION.

4. N.B. - FOREGOING STORY PROVIDED US IN CONFIDENCE BY POLITICAL ADVISOR TO CALLAGHAN, AND HAS NOT YET SURFACED IN PRESS. PLEASE PROTECT.

SPIERS

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